

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Lebanon/Syria	REPORT NO.	CS -41834
SUBJECT	Activities of the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem	DATE DISTR.	13 July 1954
		NO. OF PAGES	2
DATE OF INFO.	Early May 1954	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD A-5518 CS-33041
PLACE ACQUIRED	England, London (1 June 1954)	REFERENCES	CS-31312 CS-30953 CS-40663

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE: Through a reliable British channel; from a source described as "established."

- On 6 May 1954, 'Ali Haidar Husayni, a son-in-law of the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, Hajj Amin al-Husayni, arrived in Damascus from Cairo. He brought with him a letter from the ex-Mufti for Ma'ruf Dawalibi, [then] Syrian Minister of Defense, in which the ex-Mufti requested that at least some of the Palestinian refugees should be armed so that they might be formed into bands to wage guerrilla warfare against Israel.
- Dawalibi promised to assist in this project and 'Ali Haidar Husayni thereupon formed two committees (one each in Syria and Lebanon) to take delivery of the arms and organize the guerrilla bands.
- The Damascus Committee is to consist of:

Shaykh Tawfiq Ibrahim¹, aka Abu Ibrahim al-Saghir²
Zaki 'Abd-al-Rahim
Shaykh Hasan Hassuni
Ramsi Amir

- The Beirut Committee is to consist of:

'Abdullah Samarah³
Muhammad al-Ajay Misa
Nizar 'Awdah⁴
Muhammad al-Saffuri⁶

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- British Comment. Tawfiq Ibrahim was reported to have been instructed by the ex-Mufti to organize arms smuggling between Libya and Egypt.
- Washington Comment. CS-15257 reported that Abu Ibrahim al-Saghir, who was stationed in Damascus, was a leader of one of the cells of refugees who conducted paramilitary cross-border raids into Israel.

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3. Washington Comment. 'Abdullah Samarah was described in CS-27927 as head of the Arab Higher Executive (AHE) Bureau in Lebanon and assisting in the preparation of a list of all Palestinian refugees in Syria who would be willing to serve as volunteers in a war against Israel.
4. British Comment. Amir Awdah is an ex-Palestinian terrorist and possibly a Communist.
5. Washington Comment. CS-33041 reported that Muhammad Nimr 'Awdah was among the persons who met with the ex-Mufti in November 1953 in Beirut to discuss the refugee problem.
6. British Comment. Muhammad al-Saffuri is one of the ex-Mufti's ex-guerrilla lieutenants in Palestine.

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